

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

S E C R E T STATE 177682

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AS, CB, CH, VN

SUBJECT: GOA CONTACT WITH GRUNK IN PEKING

REF: STATE 152032 (NOTAL)

1. AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF PROVIDED FOLLOWING GIST OF REPORT
SUBMITTED BY AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR IN PEKING.

2. UPON INSTRUCTIONS FROM CANBERRA (REFTEL) TO EXPRESS GOA
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HOPE THAT THE CAMBODIAN PARTIES WOULD AGREE TO EXPLORE PROS-

PECTS FOR NEGOTIATIONS, AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR FITZGERALD TALKED WITH GRUNK AND PRC OFFICIALS ON JULY 30.

3. GRUNK OFFICIALS WERE "FOREIGN MINISTER" SARIN CHHAK, LOYAL SIHANOUK AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT WHO RALLIED TO SIHANOUK IN 1970, AND VAN PINY. LATTER, 33-YEAR OLD FORMER PROTEGE OF LEFTIST CAMBODIAN LEADER CHAU SENG, WHO WAS SECOND SECRETARY IN CAMBODIAN EMBASSY IN PARIS WHEN HE DEFECTED TO SIHANOUK IN JULY 1970, NOW HOLDS TITLE OF GRUNK VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

4. SARIN CHHAK APPARENTLY RULED OUT ANY CONTACT AT ANY LEVEL OF GRUNK EVEN SHOULD PERSONALITIES SUCH AS LON NOL, SIRIK MATAK OR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ LEAVE THE SCENE. SARIN CHHAK EMPHASIZED TO FITZGERALD THAT GRUNK WOULD CONTINUE THE FIGHT TO ACHIEVE "COMPLETE INDEPENDENCE

AND NEUTRALITY" OF CAMBODIA.

5. ASKED IF THE GRUNK WOULD NEGOTIATE DIRECTLY WITH THE US, SARIN CHHAK STATED THAT HE HAD NO GUIDANCE FROM THE "IN-COUNTRY LEADERSHIP" OF THE INSURGENCY AND REITERATED THE POINT WHEN ASKED IF THIS REPRESENTED SIHANOUK'S POSITION.

6. SARIN CHHAK INDICATED THAT THE GRUNK LEADERSHIP FEELS THAT MILITARY VICTORY IS ASSURED WITH ADMISSION TO THE UN (PRESUMABLY CAUSING CONGRESS TO CUT OFF ASSISTANCE TO PHNOM PENH). SARIN CHHAK AT THE SAME TIME INDICATED A DISBELIEF IN FITZGERALD'S ARGUMENTS THAT THE US WISHES TO DISENGAGE WITH A COMPROMISE SOLUTION.

7. SECOND MAJOR POINT MADE BY SARIN CHHAK REVOLVED AROUND RELATIONS WITH NORTH VIETNAM. SARIN CHHAK SAID THAT GRUNK WITH RUBBER PRODUCTION PROFITS WOULD BE INDEPENDENT IN NON-MILITARY REQUIREMENTS THOUGH "CLOSE COOPERATION" WITH NVN IN MILITARY SPHERE WAS NECESSARY FOR "THE TIME BEING". HE OBSERVED THAT THE PROBLEM IN THE FUTURE WAS ONE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE "AMBITIONS."

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8. ON SAME DAY, FITZGERALD CALLED UPON LING PING, OFFICER IN CHARGE OF AMERICAS AND OCEANIC AFFAIRS IN THE MFA, WHO SAID THAT PRC "IN GENERAL" SUPPORTED SIHANOUK'S REJECTION OF THE JULY 9 NEGOTIATIONS OFFER. LING PING APPARENTLY DODGED QUESTION ON PREFERENCE OF PRC FOR MILITARY OR POLITICAL SOLUTION IN CAMBODIA. KISSINGER

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